

Twenty thousand, & only one settled orthodox  
Congregational minister. No other instance of  
the kind, cannot be found in all New-England.

Please inform me by return of mail whether  
you can visit us, & the time when.

Yours in the bonds of Christ,  
Samuel B. Simonds

S. B. Simonds  
Lowell Mass. April 11. 1837.

PHELPS  
MSS.

4 Bro. Phelps,

The Second Cong. Chh & Society in this city have been without a pastor about one year & a half. Since Mr. Twining left us we have extended several invitations to gentlemen, but they all with one consent make excuse.

There are many persons which might be obtained, but they are not in our opinion adapted to the character & wants of this people. Not long since Bro. Moore of Matick, mentioned to me that a few days before he received a letter from you, in which he learnt, should the providence of God open the way, you would again assume the pastoral charge.

The object of this letter is, to know what are your engagements, & whether you can make a visit to this city, & preach for us one or more sabbaths immediately. If you can, your expences I presume will be cheerfully defrayed.

Dear Bro. I wish to see you face to face, & tell you the wants of this people. I cannot spread them before your mind with ink & paper. Knowing as I do often desire to occupy that place upon Zion's walls, where you can be the most useful, I am persuaded could you spend a sabbath or two in this city, you would find it presents a field for doing good second to no other in New-England.

I have written this letter upon my own responsibility. Perfect confidence in your adaptedness to the wants & character of this people, is the apology which has lead me to make the above enquiry. Having been so long time without a settled minister our people are getting to be almost discouraged.

In this city we have a population of about